ETHNOCULTURAL DATA BASE MATERIALS SERIES III SPECIAL REPORT NO. 2

NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS IN ONTARIO, 1981: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

A STUDY BASED ON DATA FROM THE 1981 CENSUS

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PREFACE

Non-English Speaking Immigrants in Ontario, 1981: Socio-Economic Characteristics has been produced for the Ethnocultural Data Base of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, in support of the Ministry's lead role in multiculturalism and settlement.

The major purpose of the Ethnocultural Data Base is to provide the Ontario Government with information about the patterns of residential settlement and the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Ontario's ethnocultural and immigrant population. As well, the information provided in this publication is expected to be helpful to other levels of government, business and industry, community organizations and agencies, post-secondary institutions, and the public generally.

This report updates an earlier publication, **Non-English Speaking Immigrants in Ontario, 1961-1980: A Statistical Review**, prepared by Dr. S.N. Sharma of the Ontario Ministry of Treasury and Economics, which provided a tabular and graphic review of age, sex and year of immigration characteristics for annual flows of non-English speaking immigrants into Ontario during that time period.

The 1981 census provides the opportunity to examine **all** immigrants into Ontario who were resident in the province at that time and regardless of period of immigration, in relation to a number of language, demographic, socio-economic and household characteristics. Hence the current volume provides, for the first time, detailed comparisons of these characteristics for three sub-groups of the total population: non-English speaking and English speaking immigrants, and the non-immigrant Ontario population.

The project was carried out by Brian Harrison, Special Advisor on Social Statistics in the Housing, Family and Social Division of Statistics Canada with the assistance of Statistics Canada personnel noted in the Acknowledgements section. Funding for the analysis and report was provided by the Newcomer Services Branch and the Policy Planning Secretariat and for the publication by the Citizenship Development Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, under the general direction of Dorene E. Jacobs with assistance from Maryelle Tetreault.

Additional copies of this report, as well as previous Ethnocultural Data Base publications, may be obtained from the Ontario Government Bookstore, located at 880 Bay Street, Toronto for personal shopping. Out-of-town customers can write to Publications Services, 5th Floor, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1N8. In Metro Toronto, call 965-6015. Outside Metro, dial 1-800-268-7540. In area code 705, call the operator and ask for Zenith 67200.

Further information about the Ethnocultural Data Base is available from:

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The author is solely responsible for the opinions expressed and for any errors or omissions which appear in this report.

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Highlights

1. Non-English speaking immigrants in Ontario are largely located in the larger population centers (Census Metropolitan Areas). In fact, 92.1% reside in a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) according to the 1981 Census. The Toronto CMA accounts for 71.6% of non-English speaking immigrants.

2. Approximately two-thirds of non-English speaking immigrants are females.

3. Most non-English speaking immigrants live in families as either husbands or wives - 70% are married while 18% are widowed. They tend to be older than English speaking immigrants; two-thirds being 45 years of age or older.

4. Many non-English speaking immigrants have been in Canada for a considerable time. Over half (53%) came to Canada before 1971.

5. People with Italian or Portuguese mother tongue account for over half of non-English speaking immigrants residing in Ontario. Aproximately one in three have Italian mother tongue, while just over 20% have Portuguese mother tongue.

6. Non-English speaking immigrants tend to live in larger households than English speaking immigrants. In most cases, they live with people who are able to speak English.

7. Non-English speaking immigrants have low levels of education, 79% having less than grade 9 education. This compares to 23% for English speaking immigrants.

8. Non-English speaking immigrants are particularly scarce in managerial, administrative, professional, scientific, teaching and related occupations. They tend to work in processing, service, and construction occupations where incomes are generally low.

9. Non-English speaking immigrants have lower rates of labour force participation and lower incomes than English speaking immigrants. The average employment income of the non-English speaking immigrants is $9,934, compared to $14,921 for English speakers. Differences in income persist even when comparisons are made for persons with similar levels of education.

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Introduction

The settlement and adaptation of immigrants has been an important concern of both the federal and provincial governments in Canada for many years. The importance of policies and programs in this area is underlined by the sheer number of immigrants in Canada, and their contribution to the economic and social fabric of the nation. Immigrants comprise 16% of the Canadian population according to the 1981 Census, compared to 5% in the United States.

Proficiency in one of the official languages is fundamental to the adaptation process, allowing immigrants to participate more fully in economic, social and cultural activities. In Ontario, where just over half of Canadian immigrants are located, both the federal and provincial governments recognize the importance of language and contribute, either directly or indirectly, to the development of second language skills.

Nevertheless, a considerable number of immigrants lack adequate skills in English, the language spoken by approximately 98% of Ontarians.[1] Results of the 1981 Census show 127,000 immigrants in Ontario who are unable to speak English well enough to conduct a conversation. The purpose of this study is to describe this population in terms of their demographic, social and economic characteristics, and to compare their characteristics and their economic situation to those of other Ontarians.

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[1] Refers to the percentage of Ontarians who are able to carry on a conversation in English, according to the 1981 Census.

The data in this report are taken from the 1981 Census of Canada. Non-English speaking people are identified through a question which asks:

Can you speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation?

- ☐ English only
- ☐ French only
- ☐ Both English and French
- ☐ Neither English nor French

Those who responded "French only" or "Neither English nor French" represent the non-English speaking population. Thus, non-English speaking means that the individual is judged to be unable to conduct a conversation in English.

For purposes of this report, an immigrant is defined as someone born outside Canada who was not a Canadian citizen by birth. This information is derived from census questions on the place of birth and citizenship of Canadian residents.

Readers should note that the census statistics are subjected to a confidentiality procedure known as "random rounding" to prevent the possibility of associating small figures with any identifiable individual. Under this method, all figures including totals are randomly rounded (either up or down) to a multiple of "5". This technique provides strong protection against direct, residual or negative disclosures without adding significant error to the census data. However, since the totals are independently rounded, they do not necessarily equal the sum of the individual rounded figures in the distributions. Also, minor differences can be expected for corresponding totals and cell values in various census reports. Similarly, percentages, which are calculated on rounded figures, do not necessarily add to the total.

1. Non-English Speaking Ontarians

The inability to speak English in Ontario is a phenomenon found not only among immigrants, but also among the population born in Canada. While immigrants often speak neither official language, a sizeable number of the native born population can speak French, but not English. Table 1 shows Ontarians according to their official language characteristics. Those who speak only French account for just under 1% of Ontarians who were born in Canada. A very small proportion of Ontarians who were born in Canada (0.4%), speak neither English nor French.

Comparing immigrants to those born in Canada shows a considerably lower proportion of the former group who speak both official languages and a much higher proportion who speak neither. It is worthwhile noting that the proportion of the population speaking neither English nor French is higher in Ontario than in any other province, and that more than half of Canadian residents who speak neither official language are located in Ontario (information derived from 1981 Census bulletins).

Where are the non-English speaking immigrants located in Ontario? Table 2 shows that the vast majority of them live in one of the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA), that is, areas with 100,000 or more population. The 1981 Census reported 127,460 non-English speaking immigrants in Ontario, of which only 7.9% were not residing in a CMA. Two factors may explain the concentration of non-English speaking immigrants in the larger population centers. Firstly, immigrants are attracted to the larger cities where more jobs exist and where adaptation to Canadian life is facilitated through the existence of immigrant services and larger

numbers of other immigrants. Secondly, those that are non-English speaking may be more likely to remain in this situation in larger centres, where there is a sizeable number of people who speak the first language of the immigrants, and where they can carry on many of their daily activities in their mother tongue.

A large majority of the non-English speaking immigrants (71.6%) are located in the Toronto CMA. The concentrations of immigrant groups in that area would certainly permit many of them to do much of their communicating in their first language. Much smaller proportions of non-English speaking immigrants are located in Hamilton, Ottawa, Kitchener, Windsor, St. Catharines-Niagara, and the other CMAs.

Table 1

Official Language Characteristics by Place of Birth, Ontario, 1981

Official Language	Place of Birth					
	Born in Canada		Born Outside Canada - Immigrants		Total (1)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
English Only	5,641,060	86.7	1,746,860	86.9	7,401,070	86.7
Both English and French	786,475	12.1	135,255	6.7	924,480	10.8
French Only	56,765	0.9	3,720	0.2	60,530	0.7
Neither English nor French	24,210	0.4	123,735	6.2	148,180	1.7
Total	6,508,510	100.0	2,009,575	100.0	8,534,260	100.0

(1) Includes 16,175 persons who were Canadian citizens by birth and thus did not immigrate to Canada. They are part of the non-immigrant population in Ontario.

Table 2

Non-English Speaking Immigrants by Area of Residence, Ontario, 1981

	Number	%
Toronto	91,285	71.6
Hamilton	7,395	5.8
Ottawa (Ontario part of Ottawa-Hull CMA)	4,805	3.8
Kitchener	4,010	3.1
Windsor	2,815	2.2
St. Catharines-Niagara	2,415	1.9
London	2,045	1.6
Thunder Bay	1,020	0.8
Sudbury	815	0.6
Oshawa	815	0.6
Not in a Census Metropolitan Area	10,040	7.9
Total	127,460	100.0

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.

2. Demographic Characteristics

The purpose of this section is to provide a profile of the demographic characteristics of non-English speaking immigrants in Ontario. How old are they? Are they men or women? What is their marital status and do they live in families? How long have they been in Canada? The answers to these questions are fundamental to understanding the situation of these immigrants, and to the development or fine-tuning of policies and programs designed to help them.

2.1 Age and Sex

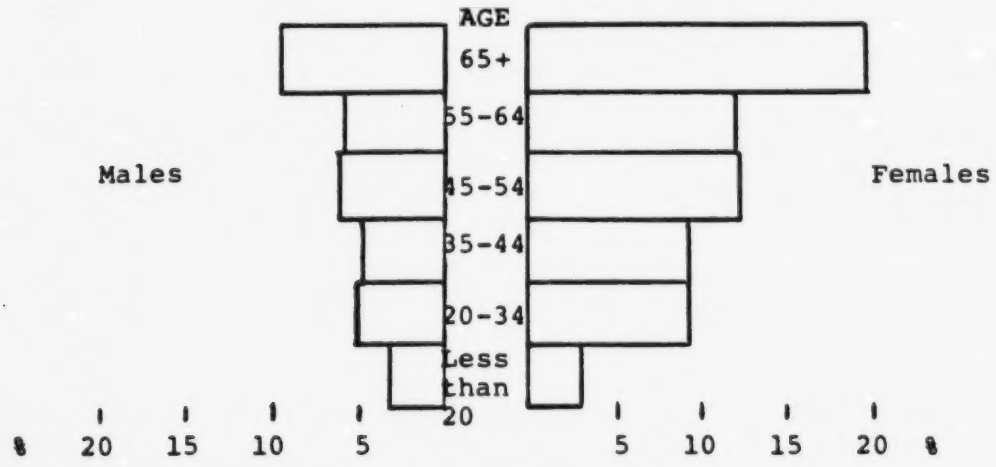
Figure 1 shows the age and sex structure of the population of non-English speaking immigrants in Ontario, along with that of English speaking immigrants. It is apparent that those who do not speak English tend to be more clustered in older age categories than English speakers. Approximately two-thirds of those who cannot speak English are 45 years of age or older. This compares to 43% in this age category among immigrants who can speak English. Approximately 20% of the non-English speaking immigrants are under 35, compared to 37% of those who speak English.

In addition to being older, those who don't speak English also have a much greater tendency to be women than their English speaking counterparts. While the latter group is about 50% female, the non-English speaking immigrants are about two-thirds female. A sizeable proportion of the total number of non-English speaking immigrants in Ontario (43.5%) are women 45 years of age or older.

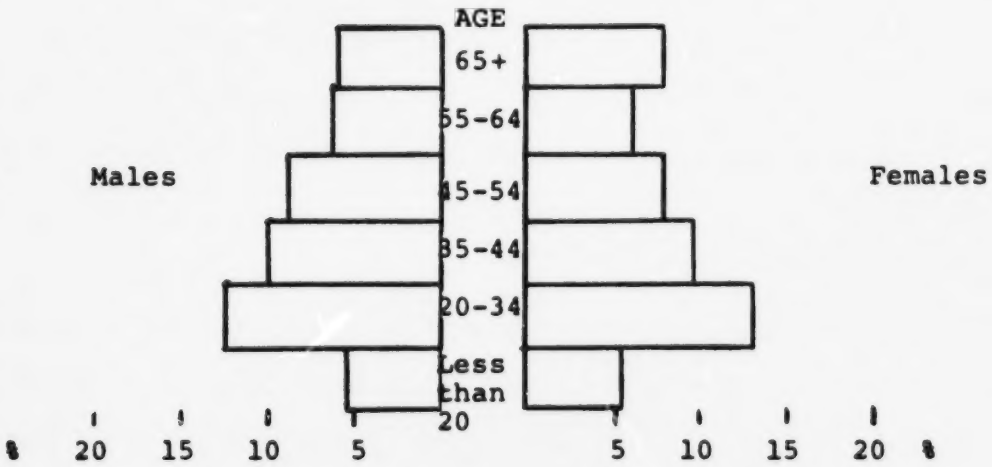
Figure 1

Age Pyramids for Non-English Speaking and English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981

Non-English Speaking Immigrants



English Speaking Immigrants



Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Tables A-2, A-4 in Appendix 2.

2.2 Marital and Family Status

The marital status data for non-English speaking immigrants (Figure 2) show that the majority (70.0%) are married, while 18.3% are widowed and 9.8% single. There is a considerably smaller proportion of widows and a higher proportion of singles among English speakers, a fact which reflects the younger age distribution of this population.

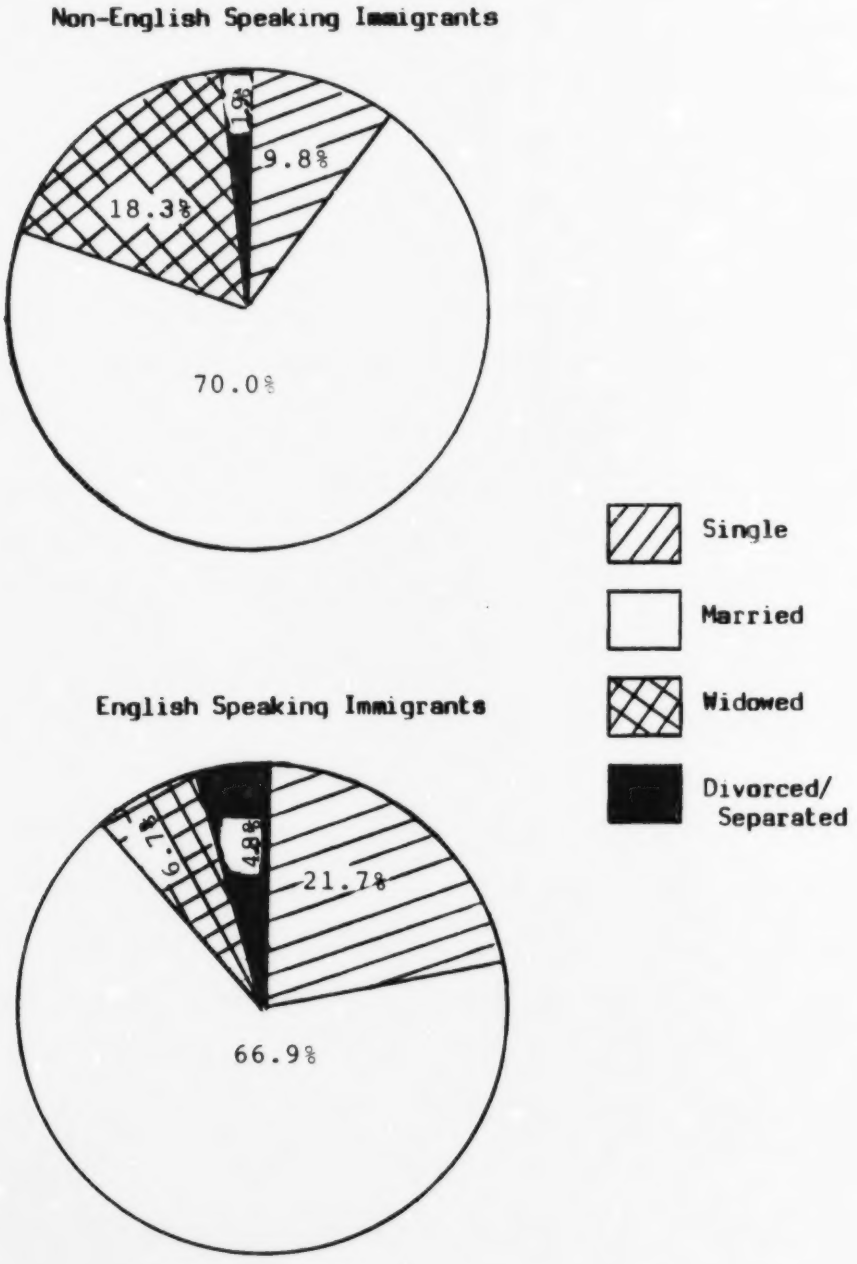
A census family, according to Statistics Canada, is defined as a husband and wife (with or without never married children, regardless of age) or a lone parent, regardless of marital status, with one or more children who have never married (regardless of age), living in the same dwelling. Family relationships are, consequently, those of husbands, wives, lone-parents or children. A large majority of non-English speaking immigrants live in families (see Figure 3), with approximately 41% living as wives and 27% as husbands. About 21% are not in census families, a situation which reflects the presence of the relatively high proportion of widows in the non-English speaking population. Children represent only about 7% of the non-English speaking immigrants, a smaller proportion than among English speaking immigrants where they form 15.4% of the population. It is likely that children are exposed to much more English than their parents, through the school program and through their friends, and that they learn English more quickly.

2.3 Period of Immigration

How long has Ontario's current non-English speaking immigrant population been in Canada? In general, we would expect that after a few years, immigrants in Ontario would have learned English, but Figure 4 shows that many of those unable to

Figure 2

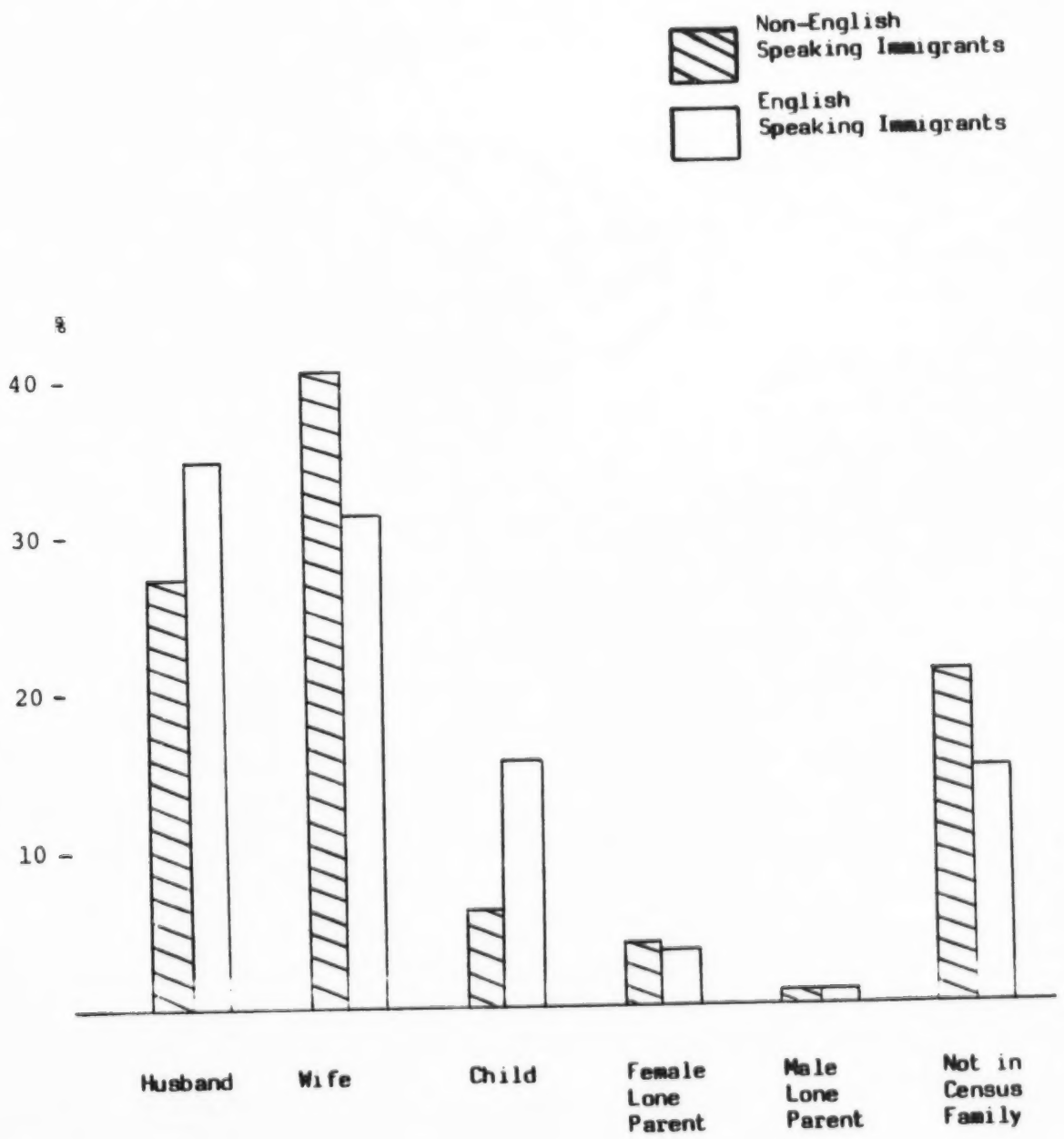
Marital Status of Non-English Speaking and English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981



Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Tables A-5, A-6 in Appendix 2.

Figure 3

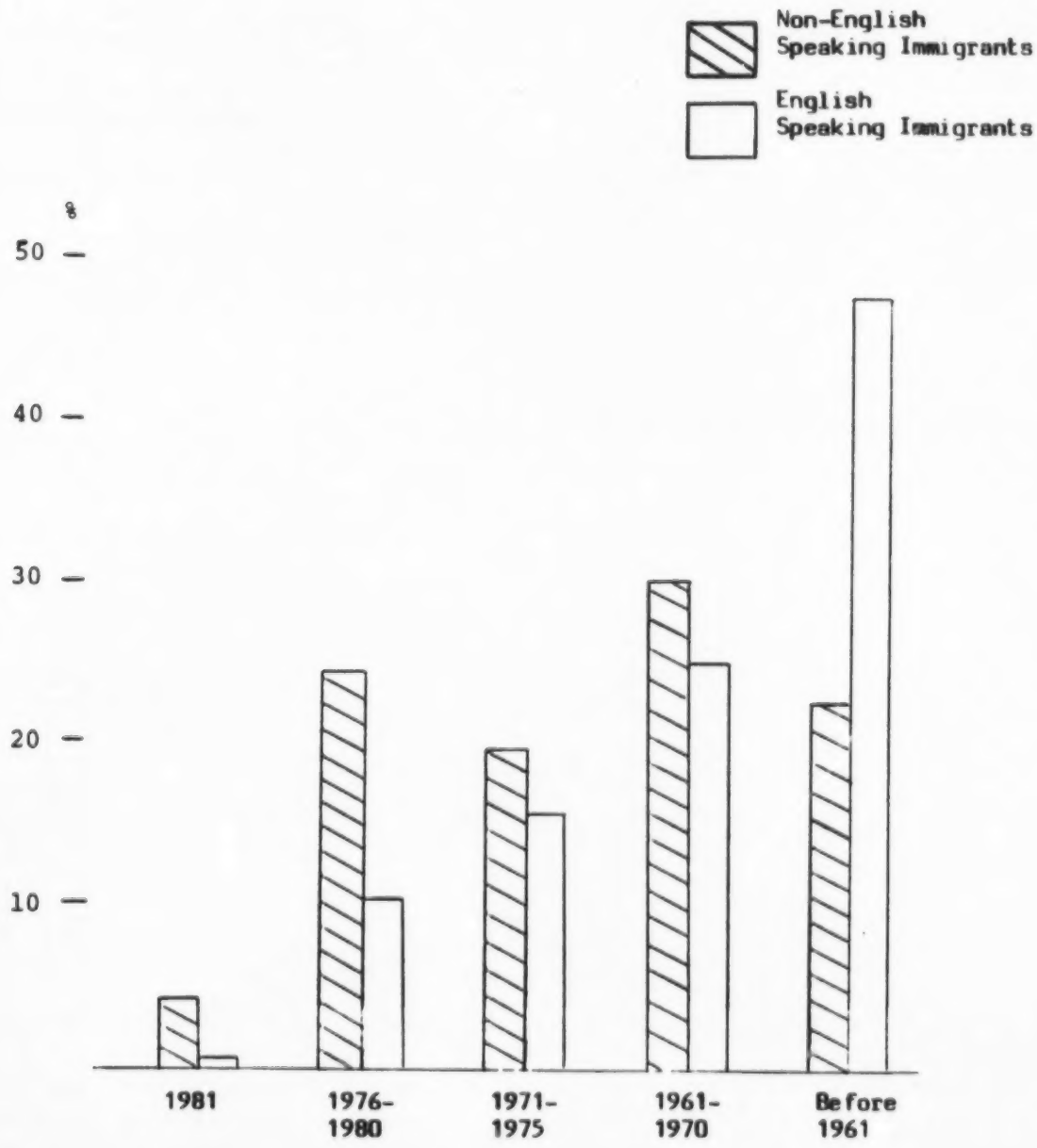
Family Status of Non-English Speaking and English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981



Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Table A-7 in Appendix 2.

Figure 4

Period of Immigration of Non-English Speaking and English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981



Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Table A-8, A-9 in Appendix 2.

speak English had immigrated to Canada more than ten years prior to the 1981 Census. In fact, approximately 53% had immigrated to Canada before 1971, and roughly 22% before 1961. Among the more recent arrivals, 24% immigrated during the 1976-1980 period.

The comparison with English speaking immigrants shows that they have been in Canada longer (almost half arrived before 1961), and that a smaller proportion are recent arrivals.

3. Language Characteristics

In addition to the question on the ability to speak English or French, the 1981 Census included two other language questions, one on mother tongue and another on home language. Mother tongue is the language first learned in childhood and still understood by the respondent while home language is the language spoken in the home by the respondent (the language spoken most often if two or more languages are used). An examination of the mother tongue characteristics of the non-English speaking immigrants can shed further light on their situation. For example, a high tendency not to speak English among certain groups may reflect extreme difficulties in learning English for those groups, or less contact with the English language than others.

Figure 5 shows the distribution of non-English speaking immigrants by mother tongue and sex, that is, the percentage of these people who have Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, Greek, Indo-Pakistani and other mother tongues. About one in three have Italian mother tongue, while just over 20% have Portuguese mother tongue. The Italian and Portuguese language groups thus account for more than half of the non-English speaking immigrants in Ontario.[2]

Ontarians with Chinese mother tongue also account for a fairly large share of non-English speaking immigrants (14.3%) while Greek (4.7%) and Indo-Pakistani (2.6%) languages represent smaller proportions of this population. The group with "other" languages is dispersed among many different language groups.

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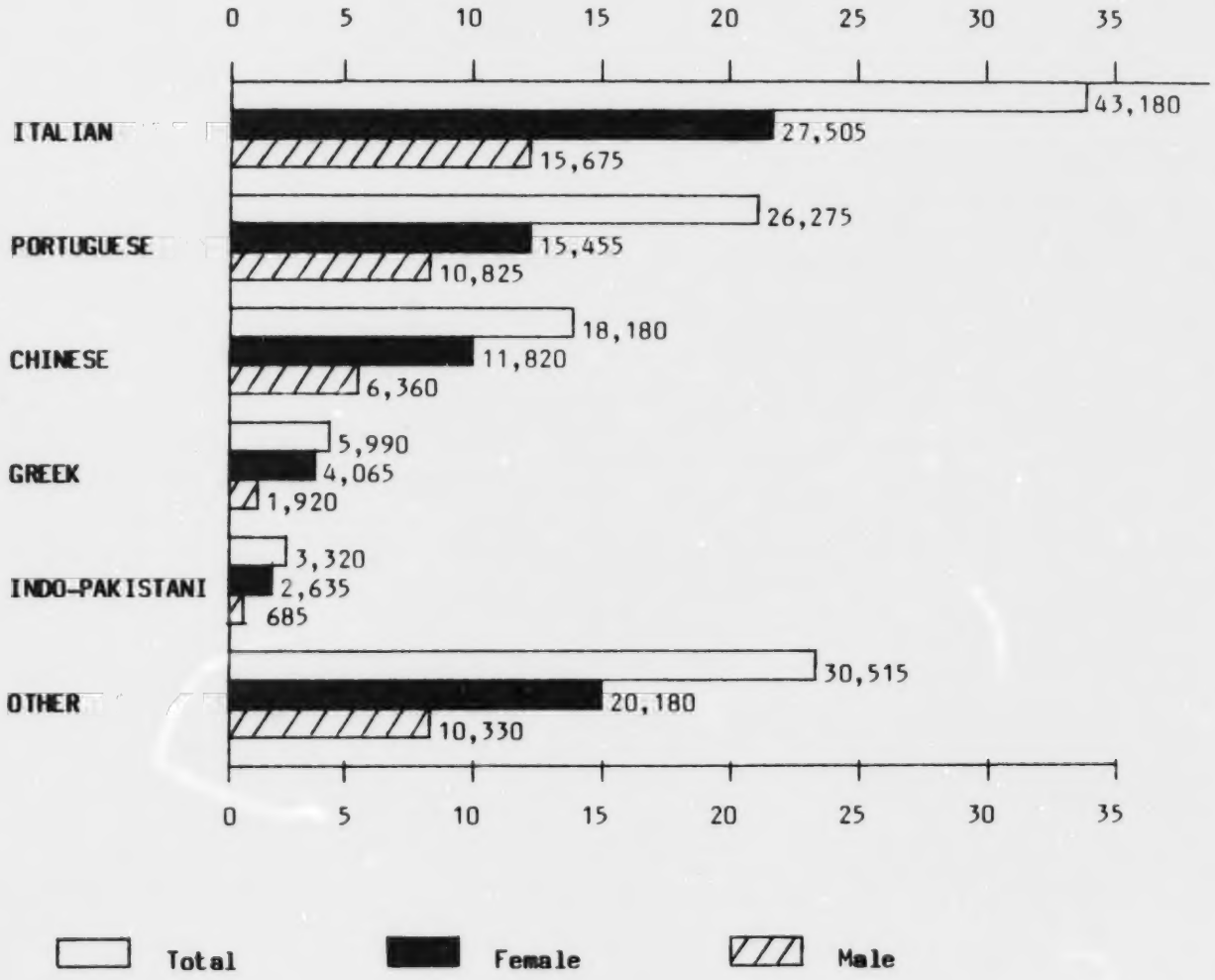
[2] Note that an examination of the place of birth data for these two groups showed that 98.4% of those with Italian mother tongue were born in Italy, while 99.1% of those with Portuguese mother tongue were born in Portugal. Non-English speaking immigrants with Chinese mother tongue were born in China (36.6%), Taiwan (34.7%), Hong Kong (6.8%) as well as other countries. Those with Greek mother tongue were mostly born in Greece (90.9%).

Figure 5

Percentage Distribution of Non-English Speaking Immigrants by Mother Tongue and Sex, Ontario, 1981



Other includes Yugoslavian (2.3% of non-English speaking immigrants), Polish (2.2%), German (1.7%), Ukrainian (1.3%), French (1.1%) and other mother tongues.

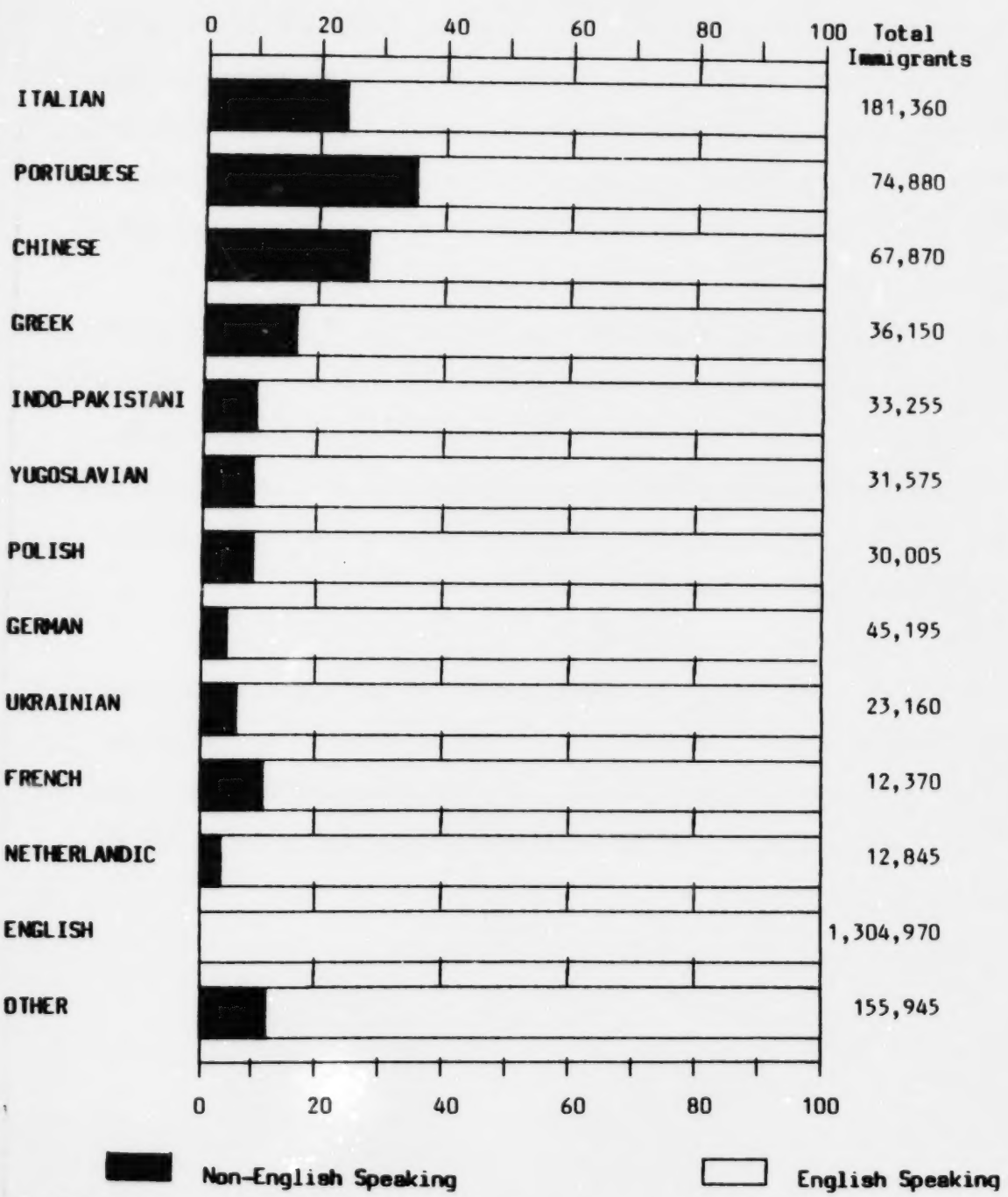
Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Table A-10 in Appendix 2.

The preceding discussion centred on the distribution of non-English speaking immigrants by mother tongue, but do different language groups have greater proportions of people unable to speak English within them? In other words, are there greater percentages of those with Italian mother tongue who do not speak English than those with Chinese, Greek, Polish or German mother tongues? Figure 6 shows that the tendency not to speak English is greatest for the Portuguese group. Of Ontarians with Portuguese mother tongue, 35.1% do not speak English well enough to conduct a conversation. The two other groups in which we find a high tendency not to speak English are the Chinese and Italian with 26.8% and 23.8% respectively. It is likely that many of these people live in closely knit ethnic communities where they are able to communicate, for the most part, in their mother tongue. However, their lack of ability to converse in English would certainly hinder their access to services offered by the province or even by the municipality in which they live. Their enjoyment of the cultural activities of the province would also be hampered considerably.

Other mother tongue groups have lower, though not negligible, proportions who are unable to speak English. Of Ontarians with Greek mother tongue, 16.6% are non-English speaking while 10.0% of those in the Indo-Pakistani language groups and slightly lower proportions with Polish and Yugoslavian mother tongue are in this situation.

Figure 6

Percentage Distribution of Immigrants by Mother Tongue and Knowledge of English, Ontario, 1981



Source:
1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Table A-11 in Appendix 2.

4. Household Characteristics

The census defines a household as a person or group of persons occupying a dwelling. Through analysis of the human groups in which non-English speaking immigrants are found, we can gain important insights into their situation.

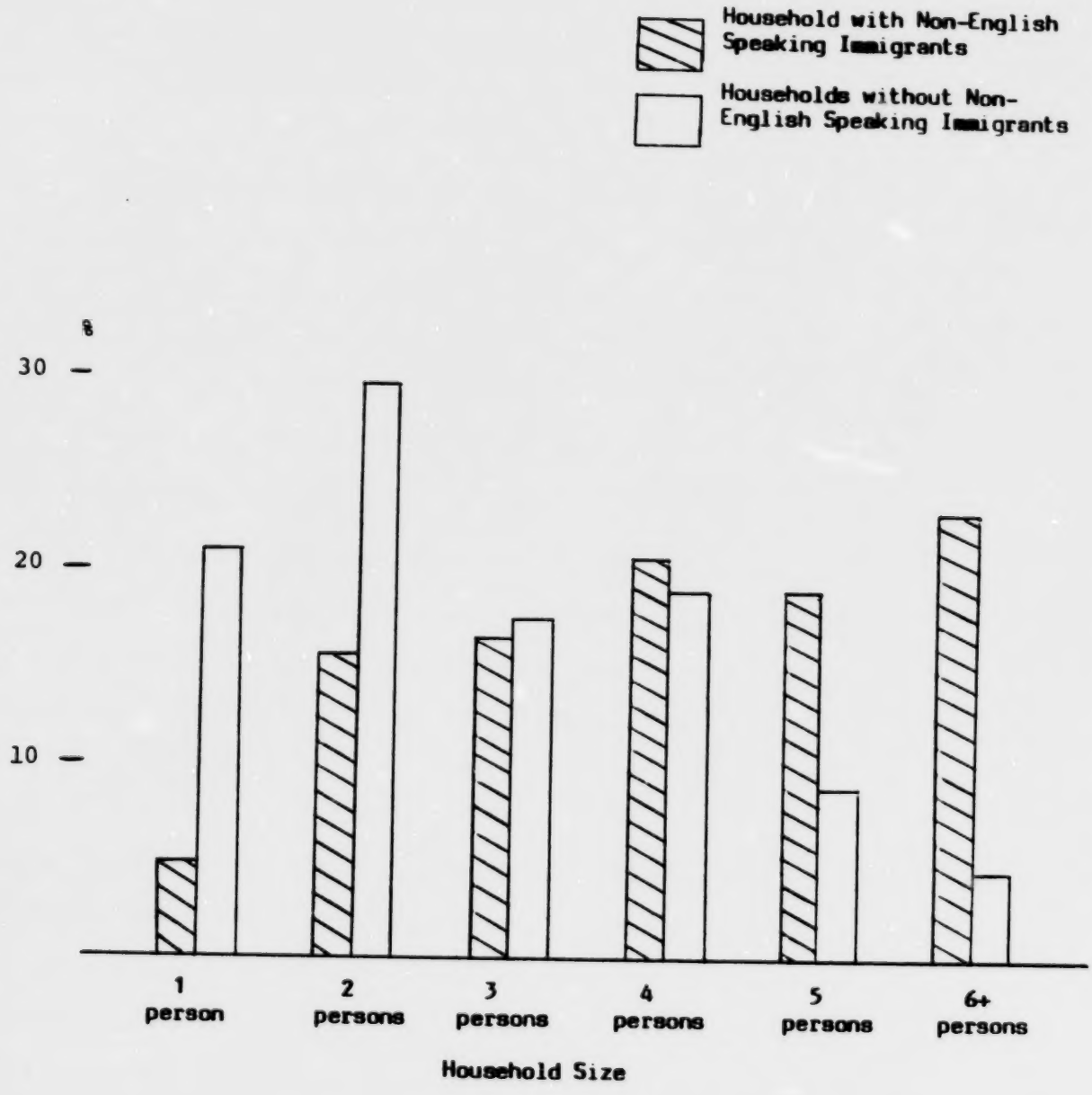
Figure 7 shows that those unable to speak English very seldom live alone, as only 4.8% are in this living arrangement. This may be partially due to a greater dependency on others which results from their lack of knowledge in English. English speaking immigrants are about four times as likely to live alone as non-English speaking immigrants.

Examination of other types of households shows that non-English speaking immigrants generally live in much larger households than those who speak English. For example, 23.3% live in households comprised of six or more people. This compares to only 4.4% for English speaking immigrants. It is likely that many non-English speaking immigrants find support and develop a dependency within their family and household groups.

One would think that the tendency to learn English would be enhanced if other household members could speak English. But do non-English speaking immigrants tend to live in clusters, where all are unable to speak English or is there generally at least one English speaking person in the household? Table 3 shows that immigrants unable to speak English are found in 83,305 households and that the vast majority (87.1%) of these have at least one English speaker living there. Nevertheless, there are 10,715 households (composed of about 22,000 people) in which nobody can speak English well enough to conduct a conversation.

Figure 7

Percentage Distribution of Households by Size for Households With and Without Non-English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981



Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Table A-12 in Appendix 2.

Table 3

Households With Non-English Speaking Immigrants by Presence of English Speaking Persons in Household, Ontario, 1981.

Total Households		Households with at least one English Speaker		Households with no English Speakers	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
83,305	100.0	72,590	87.1	10,715	12.9

5. Socio-economic Characteristics

How do non-English speaking immigrants fare in relation to the rest of Ontarians? We can begin to examine this question by studying their education, labour force participation and occupation and comparing them to other Ontario residents. These variables, along with data on income, are important indicators of the position of non-English speaking immigrants in the economic and social hierarchy.

The following sections present socio-economic characteristics for the population fifteen years of age and over.

5.1 Education

The education levels of non-English speaking immigrants are generally very low. In fact, Figure 8, shows that 79% have less than grade 9 education.[3] Approximately 23% of English speaking immigrants and 14% of non-immigrants have less than grade 9 education. This low level of educational attainment is an important consideration in devising English language training programs for immigrants. It also represents another important factor which prevents non-English speaking immigrants from sharing more fully in the economic and social benefits offered by Ontario society.

It is well known that the older population in Canada is generally less educated than their younger counterparts, and this raises the question of whether the older age structure of the non-English speaking population explains the lower

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[3] These results were derived from a Census question on number of completed years of schooling.

Figure 8

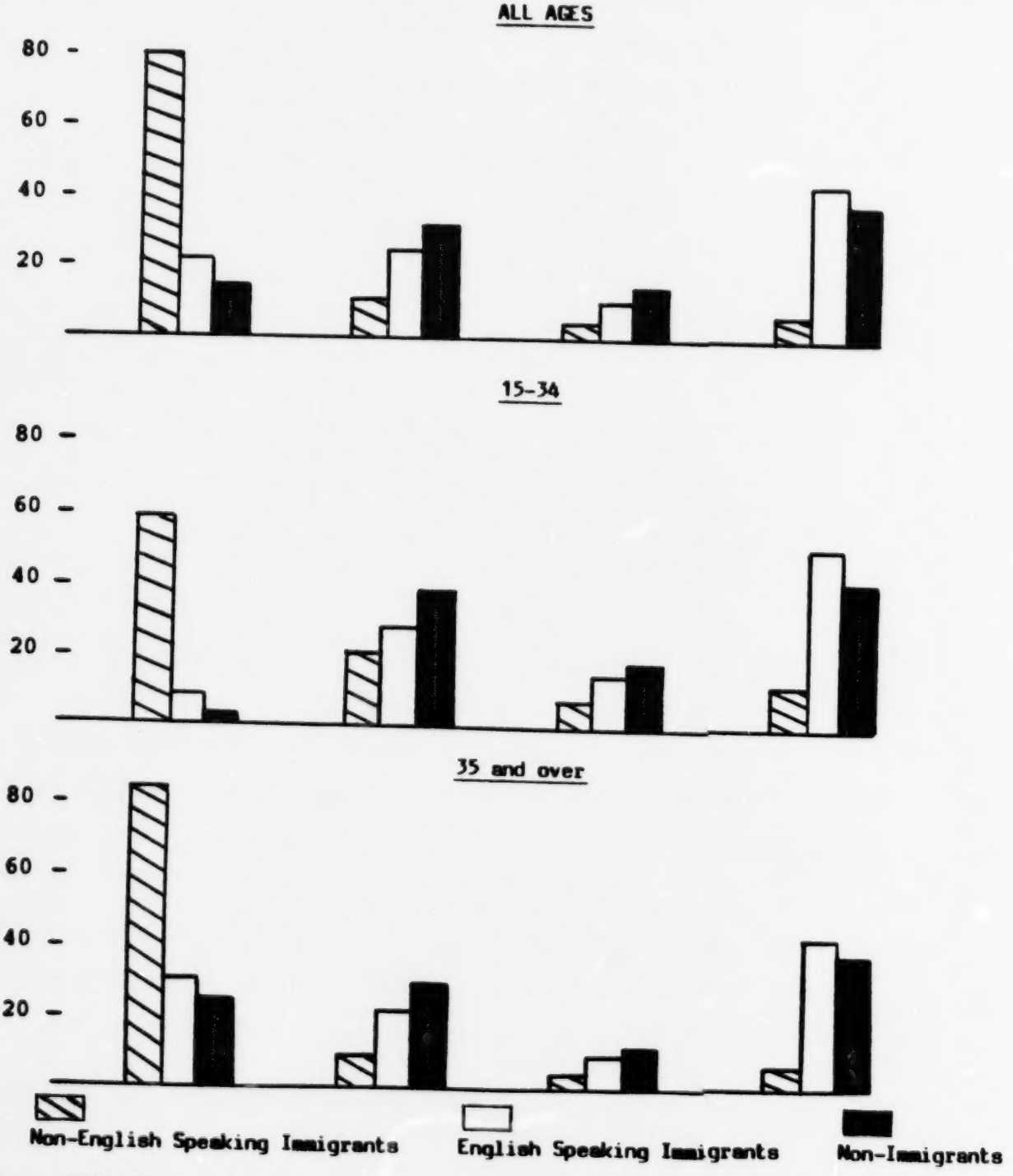
Percentage Distribution of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Level of Schooling, Ontario, 1981

Less than Grade 9

Grades 9-13 (without certificate/ diploma)

Grades 9-13 (with certificate/ diploma)

Other (University, Other non-university, trades certificate or diploma)



Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Table A-13 in Appendix 2.

levels of education observed in Figure 8. However, the breakdown by age shows that even for the younger age group (15-34) there is a sizeable proportion with less than grade 9 education (59%). Approximately 12% of other Ontarians have this low level of educational attainment.

5.2 Labour Force Participation[4]

Figure 9 shows that non-English speaking immigrants also have a much greater tendency to be out of the labour force than either English speaking immigrants or non-immigrants.[5] While about 55% of non-English speaking immigrants are not in the labour force, only about one-third of English speaking immigrants and about the same proportion of non-immigrants are in this category. This difference is partly attributable to the differing age and sex characteristics of the non-English speaking population.

Table 4 shows labour force characteristics by sex for the age groups 15-34 and 35 and over, and allows us to draw a number of important conclusions. Firstly, the labour force participation patterns of young non-English speaking immigrant males are similar to those of English speaking immigrants and non-immigrants. Secondly, young non-English speaking females have a considerably lower rate of labour force participation than the other two groups. Forty-four percent were not in the labour force, compared to 32% and 33% for English speaking immigrants and non-immigrants respectively.

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4 Tables A-16 and A-17 in Appendix 2 show education and labour force characteritics of non-English speaking immigrants by place of birth.

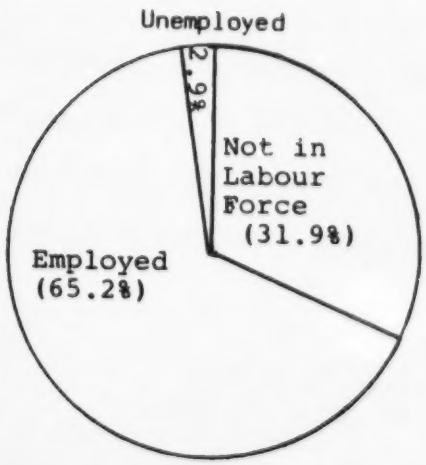
5 These results were derived from a Census question on work activity in the week prior to enumeration (June 3, 1981).

Figure 9

Percentage Distribution of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Labour Force Activity, Ontario, 1981

Non-English Speaking Immigrants

English Speaking Immigrants



Non-Immigrants

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Table A-14 in Appendix 2.

Table 4

Labour Force Participation of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Age and Sex, Ontario, 1981

	Non-English Speaking Immigrants		English Speaking Immigrants		Non-Immigrants	
	15-34	35 and over	15-34	35 and over	15-34	35 and over
Male						
Employed	78.6	58.9	81.2	77.0	76.2	74.6
Unemployed	4.8	2.4	4.3	1.9	5.8	2.2
Not in labour force	16.6	38.8	14.5	21.1	18.0	23.3
Unemployment rate	5.8	3.9	5.0	2.4	7.0	2.9
Female						
Employed	50.4	27.8	63.5	46.4	61.1	42.3
Unemployed	5.3	2.0	4.9	2.3	6.0	2.3
Not in labour force	44.3	70.2	31.6	51.4	32.9	55.4
Unemployment rate	9.5	6.7	7.1	4.6	8.9	5.1
Total						
Employed	61.2	38.5	72.2	61.8	68.7	57.6
Unemployed	5.1	2.1	4.6	2.1	5.9	2.2
Not in labour force	33.7	59.4	23.3	36.2	25.5	40.2
Unemployment rate	7.7	5.2	6.0	3.1	7.9	3.7

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Table A-14 in Appendix 2.

5.3 Occupation

The preceding section showed that non-English speaking immigrants have a greater tendency to be outside the labour force than other Ontarians, but what are the occupations of those with recent work experience? Table 5 shows the occupation groups of non-English speaking immigrants who worked in either 1980 or 1981, as well as English speaking immigrants and non-immigrants who worked during the same period, classified by sex.[6]

It is apparent from this table that the distribution of occupations for non-English speaking immigrants is considerably different than that of English speaking immigrants or non-immigrants. The following highlights emerge from this table:

(1) Non-English speaking immigrants are particularly scarce in managerial, administrative, professional, scientific, teaching and related occupations. Only 3.0% of non-English speaking immigrants are in this category, compared to 24.7% of English speaking immigrants and 24.0% of non-immigrants. This is the occupation group in which incomes in Ontario are the highest.

(2) Only a relatively small proportion of non-English speaking immigrants are found in sales or in clerical and related occupations. Just over 3.1% work in clerical and related occupations compared to 17.8% of English speaking immigrants and 21.3% of non-immigrants.

(3) Non-English speaking immigrants are more likely to be found in service, construction and "processing" type occupations than members of the other two

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6 These results were derived from a Census question on the type of work undertaken, for respondents who worked in either 1980 or 1981.

Table 5

Occupations of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Sex, Ontario, 1981.

Occupation (major groups)	Total			Male			Female		
	Non-English Speaking Immigrants	English Speaking Immigrants	Non-Immigrants	Non-English Speaking Immigrants	English Speaking Immigrants	Non-Immigrants	Non-English Speaking Immigrants	English Speaking Immigrants	Non-Immigrants
Managerial, Administrative, Professional, Scientific, Teaching and Related Occupations	3.0	24.7	24.0	3.0	26.6	23.7	3.0	22.2	24.4
Clerical and Related Occupations	3.1	17.8	21.3	1.9	6.8	8.3	4.3	33.3	37.9
Sales	2.5	7.9	9.8	2.2	7.2	9.3	2.8	8.8	10.3
Services	24.9	12.9	12.0	19.8	10.5	9.6	30.0	16.1	15.1
Farming, Fishing, Forestry, Mining	4.4	2.6	4.9	4.7	3.1	6.8	4.2	1.9	2.6
Processing, Machining, Product Fabricating, Assembling, Repairing and Related Occupations	38.1	20.5	13.6	31.0	25.8	19.6	45.2	13.2	5.9
Construction	13.9	6.3	5.0	27.4	10.7	8.8	0.4	0.3	0.3
Transportation	0.8	2.1	3.9	1.7	3.3	6.4	-	0.4	0.8
Material Handling	4.9	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.9	5.1	6.2	3.2	2.0
All Other	4.3	1.6	1.6	4.8	2.1	2.3	3.9	1.0	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.
Table A-15 in Appendix 2.

groups. About one in four work in service occupations, compared to approximately one in eight for English speaking immigrants and non-immigrants. While both English and non-English speaking immigrants have a greater tendency than non-immigrants to work in "processing" type occupations, the non-English speaking immigrants have a much higher percentage in this occupation group (38.1%).

6. The Incomes of Non-English Speaking Immigrants

While education and occupation are important indicators of the socio-economic position of non-English speaking immigrants, a study of their incomes is necessary to deal with the question of their economic well-being.[7] Table 6 shows that the average employment income of non-English speaking immigrants was considerably less than that of English speaking immigrants and Ontarians born in Canada. Their income averaged $9,934 compared to $14,921 for English speaking immigrants and $13,113 for Ontarians born in Canada. The lower incomes of non-English speaking immigrants persist for both sexes, with incomes of men and women considerably lower for non-English speaking immigrants.

One possible reason for the difference in incomes is the different age structures of groups under analysis. Table 7 shows the average incomes by age group (under 35 and 35 and over). It is apparent that differences in employment income are found in both the younger and older age groups. In fact, the incomes of non-English speaking immigrants are lower than the other two groups, regardless of their age and sex.

Is the difference in income attributable to the lower levels of education of non-English speaking immigrants? This question can be dealt with by further classifying the data by education. Table 8 shows the proportion in each income group for various levels of education. Among non-English speaking immigrants with less than grade 9 education, 54.7% had employment incomes of less than $10,000,

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[7] This section deals with the employment income of non-English speaking immigrants, an amount which refers to the total income received in 1980 from wages and salaries, net income from non-farm self-employment and/or net farm income.

compared to 40.4% of English speaking immigrants and 45.5% of Ontarians born in Canada. A comparison of the English speaking and non-English speaking immigrants shows that a greater proportion of the latter group earned less than $10,000, regardless of the age, sex or education level compared. Thus, the non-English speaking immigrants are in a disadvantaged position, even when we compare their situation to that of other immigrants with similar education.

Table 6

Average 1980 Employment Income of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Sex, Ontario, 1981.

	Non-English Speaking Immigrants	English Speaking Immigrants	Non-Immigrants
Total	$ 9,934	$ 14,921	$ 13,113
Male	12,938	18,790	16,655
Female	6,956	9,464	8,484

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.

Table 7

Average 1980 Employment Income of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Age and Sex, Ontario, 1981.

	Non-English Speaking Immigrants	English Speaking Immigrants	Non-Immigrants
Under 35			
Total	$ 8,507	$ 11,701	$ 10,054
Male	11,347	14,483	12,265
Female	6,192	8,479	7,446
35 and over			
Total	$ 10,353	$ 16,834	$ 17,188
Male	13,347	21,028	21,932
Female	7,209	10,167	10,070
TOTAL			
Total	$ 9,934	$ 14,921	$ 13,113
Male	12,938	18,790	16,655
Female	6,956	9,464	8,484

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.

Table 8

Proportion of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over Earning Less than $10,000 in 1980 by Education, Age and Sex, Ontario, 1981

	Non-English Speaking Immigrants			English Speaking Immigrants			Non-Immigrants		
	Total	Under 35	35 and over	Total	Under 35	35 and over	Total	Under 35	35 and over
Less than Grade 9									
Total	54.7	64.0	52.5	40.4	50.1	38.5	45.5	60.9	42.7
Male	29.1	37.0	27.5	21.7	28.7	20.6	33.4	50.2	30.5
Female	78.3	83.2	77.0	67.6	72.4	66.5	73.4	82.9	71.5
Grades 9-13 (without certificate/diploma)									
Total	59.4	69.0	53.8	47.1	61.0	37.5	55.5	68.5	36.9
Male	41.3	52.8	35.5	31.6	50.5	18.4	42.7	59.0	18.4
Female	77.8	82.8	74.6	64.5	73.2	58.6	72.5	81.7	60.1
Grades 9-13 (with certificate/diploma)									
Total	64.2	73.3	57.8	44.0	52.4	34.7	49.7	56.5	33.0
Male	48.7	52.6	45.8	29.2	41.9	16.2	36.6	45.7	14.1
Female	79.7	89.5	71.4	56.4	60.7	51.4	61.7	66.2	50.5
Other									
Total	50.8	56.7	48.3	28.9	38.8	22.4	37.3	45.9	24.8
Male	34.8	40.6	32.5	18.0	27.8	12.5	25.3	35.6	12.3
Female	81.3	80.2	81.5	47.4	53.0	42.5	53.2	58.0	44.8
Total									
Total	55.2	64.7	52.4	36.1	46.5	29.8	45.3	55.2	32.2
Male	31.8	41.5	29.2	22.0	34.6	15.5	32.9	45.4	17.8
Female	78.5	83.5	76.8	55.9	60.3	52.7	61.7	66.8	53.9

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.

Conclusion

This report has presented the situation of non-English speaking immigrants in Ontario, and compared their demographic, social and economic characteristics to those of English speaking immigrants and, in some cases, non-immigrants in Ontario. The results show that the non-English speaking immigrants differ from the other two groups in a number of ways. They are older than English speaking immigrants, as two-thirds are forty-five years of age or over, and they have a higher proportion of females (two-thirds). The lower labour force participation rates of non-English speaking immigrant women means that they would often not be exposed to English in the workplace.

Many non-English speaking immigrants have been in Canada for a considerable time, and are still unable to speak English well enough to carry on a conversation. The 1981 Census found that more than half (53%) of the non-English speaking immigrants came to Canada before 1971.

People with Italian or Portuguese mother tongue account for over half of non-English speaking immigrants in Ontario. In general, non-English speaking immigrants are not well educated (79% have less than Grade 9), a factor which would have to be considered in devising training methods to teach them English.

The examination of the economic characteristics of non-English speaking immigrants showed that they have lower rates of labour force participation than either English speaking immigrants or non-immigrants. Fifty-five percent of non-English speaking immigrants are not in the labour force, compared to about one third in each of the two other groups. Those who work tend to be employed in processing, service and

construction occupations where wages and salaries are low. The employment incomes of non-English speaking immigrants are considerably lower than those of English speaking immigrants and non-immigrants in Ontario.

Appendix 1

Definitions

Non-English Speaking Immigrant

Refers to those who were born outside Canada (other than Canadian citizens) and indicated that they were unable to speak English well enough to conduct a conversation at the time of the 1981 Census.

English Speaking Immigrant

Refers to those who were born outside Canada (other than Canadian citizens) and indicated that they were able to speak English well enough to conduct a conversation at the time of the 1981 Census.

Non-immigrant

Refers to those who were born in Canada. Note that Canadian citizens born outside Canada (about 16,000) are excluded from this category.

Mother Tongue

Refers to the first language learned in childhood and still understood by an individual.

Home Language

Refers to the specific language spoken at home by the respondent at the time of the Census. If more than one language was spoken, the language spoken most often by the respondent was to be reported.

Official Languages

Refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in either of the official languages of Canada.

Census Family

Refers to a husband and a wife (with or without children who have never married, regardless of age), or a lone parent of any marital status, with one or more children who have never married, regardless of age, living in the same dwelling. For census purposes, persons living in a common-law type of arrangement are considered as now married, regardless of their legal marital status; they accordingly appear as husband-wife family in the census family tables.

Period of Immigration

Refers to groupings of years derived from years of immigration reported by persons who are not Canadian citizens by birth.

Highest Level of Schooling

Refers to the highest grade or year of elementary or secondary school attended, or the highest year of university or other non-university completed.

Labour Force Activity

Refers to the labour market activity of the population 15 years of age and over, excluding inmates, who, in the week prior to enumeration (June 3, 1981) were employed or unemployed. The remainder of the working age population are classified as not in the labour force.

Occupation

Refers to the kind of work persons 15 years of age and over, excluding inmates, were doing during the reference week, as determined by their reporting of their kind of work and the description of the most important

duties in their job. If the person did not have a job during the week prior to enumeration, the data relate to the job of longest duration since January 1, 1980. Persons with two or more jobs were to report the information for the job at which they worked the most hours.

Employment income

Refers to the total income received by persons 15 years of age and over during 1980 as wages and salaries, net income from non-farm self-employment and/or net farm income.

Appendix 2

Table A-1

Non-English Speaking Immigrants by Age and Sex, Ontario, 1981

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Less than 20	3,965	8.7	3,705	4.5	7,670	6.0
20-34	6,775	14.8	11,265	13.8	18,035	14.1
35-44	6,400	14.0	11,240	13.8	17,645	13.8
45-54	8,550	18.7	15,275	18.7	23,830	18.7
55-64	7,960	17.4	15,220	18.6	23,180	18.2
65+	12,140	26.5	24,960	30.6	37,095	29.1
Total	45,790	100.0	81,670	100.0	127,460	100.0

Table A-2

Percentage of Non-English Speaking Immigrants in Each Age-Sex Category, Ontario, 1981

	Male	Female
Less than 20	3.1	2.9
20-34	5.3	8.8
35-44	5.0	8.8
45-54	6.7	12.0
55-64	6.2	11.9
65+	9.5	19.6

Table A-3

English Speaking Immigrants by Age and Sex, Ontario, 1981

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Less than 20	114,725	12.2	110,155	11.7	224,880	11.9
20-34	231,715	24.7	246,355	26.1	478,070	25.4
35-44	187,770	20.0	178,430	18.9	366,200	19.5
45-54	164,100	17.5	144,985	15.4	309,085	16.4
55-64	122,045	13.0	120,730	12.8	242,775	12.9
65+	118,420	12.6	142,685	15.1	261,105	13.9
Total	938,770	100.0	943,345	100.0	1,882,115	100.0

Table A-4

Percentage of English Speaking Immigrants in Each Age-Sex Category, Ontario, 1981

	Male	Female
Less than 20	6.1	5.9
20-34	12.3	13.1
35-44	10.0	9.5
45-54	8.7	7.7
55-64	6.5	6.4
65+	6.3	7.6

Table A-5

Marital Status of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981

	Number	%
Single	12,540	9.8
Married	89,165	70.0
Widowed	23,315	18.3
Divorced	800	0.6
Separated	1,640	1.3
Total	127,460	100.0

Table A-6

Marital Status of English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981

	Number	%
Single	407,870	21.7
Married	1,259,235	66.9
Widowed	125,540	6.7
Divorced	42,475	2.3
Separated	46,995	2.5
Total	1,882,115	100.0

Table A-7

Family Status of Non-English Speaking Immigrants and English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981.

	Non-English Speaking		English Speaking	
	Number	%	Number	%
Husband	34,160	27.0	645,335	34.6
Wife	51,475	40.6	589,615	31.6
Child in Census Family	8,340	6.6	286,840	15.4
Female Lone Parent	5,000	3.9	53,565	2.9
Male Lone Parent	760	0.6	12,360	0.7
Not in Census Family	27,000	21.3	280,010	15.0
Total	126,740	100.0	1,867,710	100.0

Table A-8

Period of Immigration of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981

	Number	%
1981	5,080	4.0
1976-1980	30,505	23.9
1971-1975	24,910	19.5
1961-1970	38,415	30.1
Before 1961	28,550	22.4
Total	127,465	100.0

Table A-9

Period of Immigration of English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981

	Number	%
1981	12,680	0.7
1976-1980	185,370	10.6
1971-1975	281,725	16.1
1961-1970	437,935	25.1
Before 1961	829,140	47.5
Total	1,746,860	100.0

Table A-10

Percentage Distribution of Non-English Speaking Immigrants by Mother Tongue and Sex, Ontario, 1981

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Italian	15,675	12.3	27,505	21.6	43,180	33.9
Portuguese	10,825	8.5	15,455	12.1	26,275	20.6
Chinese	6,360	5.0	11,820	9.3	18,180	14.3
Greek	1,920	1.5	4,065	3.2	5,990	4.7
Indo-Pakistani	685	0.5	2,635	2.1	3,320	2.6
Yugoslavian	835	0.7	2,035	1.6	2,870	2.3
Polish	950	0.7	1,865	1.5	2,815	2.2
German	645	0.5	1,495	1.2	2,145	1.7
Ukrainian	410	0.3	1,185	0.9	1,595	1.3
French	550	0.4	870	0.7	1,420	1.1
Other	6,940	5.4	12,730	10.0	19,670	15.4
Total	45,795	35.9	81,670	64.1	127,460	100.0

Note: Percentages show % of the total non-English speaking immigrant population (127,460).

Table A-11

Percentage Distribution of Immigrants by Mother Tongue and Knowledge of English, Ontario, 1981

Mother Tongue	English Speaking		Non-English Speaking		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Italian	138,180	76.2	43,180	23.8	181,360	100.0
Portuguese	48,605	64.9	26,275	35.1	74,880	100.0
Chinese	49,690	73.2	18,180	26.8	67,870	100.0
Greek	30,160	83.4	5,990	16.6	36,150	100.0
Indo-Pakistani	29,935	90.0	3,320	10.0	33,255	100.0
Yugoslavian	28,705	90.9	2,870	9.1	31,575	100.0
Polish	27,190	90.6	2,815	9.4	30,005	100.0
German	43,050	95.3	2,145	4.7	45,195	100.0
Ukrainian	21,565	93.1	1,595	6.9	23,160	100.0
French	10,950	88.5	1,420	11.5	12,370	100.0
Netherlandic	12,450	96.9	395	3.1	12,845	100.0
English	1,304,970	100.0	-	-	1,304,970	100.0
Other	136,670	87.6	19,275	12.4	155,945	100.0

Table A-12

Percentage Distribution of Households by Size for Households With and without Non-English Speaking Immigrants, Ontario, 1981.

	Households with Non-English Speaking Immigrants		Households without Non-English Speaking Immigrants	
	Number	%	Number	%
One Person	4,000	4.8	607,305	21.0
Two Persons	12,985	15.6	853,930	29.6
Three Persons	13,665	16.4	499,735	17.3
Four Persons	17,330	20.8	546,380	18.9
Five Persons	15,910	19.1	251,735	8.7
Six or more Persons	19,415	23.3	127,390	4.4
Total	83,305	100.0	2,886,480	100.0

Table A-13

Level of Schooling of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Age Groups, Ontario, 1981

	Non-English Speaking Immigrants		English Speaking Immigrants		Non-Immigrants	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
15-34						
Less than Grade 9	11,700	58.6	47,465	8.2	83,550	3.4
Grades 9-13 (without certificate/diploma)	4,320	21.6	156,690	27.0	900,055	37.0
Grades 9-13 (with certificate/diploma)	1,495	7.5	84,235	14.5	448,810	18.4
Other (university, other non-university, trades, certificate or diploma)	2,445	12.2	292,795	50.4	1,001,845	41.2
Total	19,960	100.0	581,180	100.0	2,434,260	100.0
35 and over						
Less than Grade 9	84,610	83.2	350,095	29.7	581,680	25.0
Grades 9-13 (without certificate/diploma)	8,325	8.2	249,515	21.2	661,840	28.5
Grades 9-13 (with certificate/diploma)	2,680	2.6	91,195	7.7	232,740	10.0
Other (university, other non-university, trades, certificate or diploma)	6,135	6.0	488,360	41.4	846,255	36.4
Total	101,755	100.0	1,179,170	100.0	2,322,510	100.0
TOTAL						
Less than Grade 9	96,315	79.1	397,565	22.6	665,230	14.0
Grades 9-13 (without certificate/diploma)	12,640	10.4	406,205	23.1	1,561,895	32.8
Grades 9-13 (with certificate/diploma)	4,175	3.4	175,435	10.0	681,555	14.3
Other (university, other non-university, trades, certificate or diploma)	8,580	7.0	781,160	44.4	1,848,095	38.9
Total	121,710	100.0	1,760,345	100.0	4,756,770	100.0

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.

Table A-14

Labour Force Participation of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Age and Sex, Ontario, 1981

	Non-English Speaking Immigrants		English Speaking Immigrants		Non-Immigrants	
	15-34	35 and over	15-34	35 and over	15-34	35 and over
Male						
Employed	6,005	20,630	230,985	456,035	927,890	821,205
Unemployed	370	830	12,150	11,190	70,185	24,110
Not in labour force	1,265	13,590	41,335	125,110	219,545	256,185
Total	7,640	35,050	284,470	592,335	1,217,620	1,101,500
Female						
Employed	6,215	18,545	188,385	272,230	743,530	516,625
Unemployed	650	1,340	14,505	13,215	72,570	27,550
Not in labour force	5,460	46,820	93,825	301,380	400,540	676,840
Total	12,325	66,705	296,715	586,825	1,216,640	1,221,015
Total						
Employed	12,220	39,175	419,365	728,270	1,671,420	1,337,830
Unemployed	1,020	2,170	26,655	24,405	142,755	51,655
Not in labour force	6,720	60,410	135,160	426,495	620,085	933,025
Total	19,960	101,755	581,180	1,179,170	2,434,260	2,322,510

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.

Table A-15

Occupations of Non-English Speaking Immigrants, English Speaking Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Sex, Ontario, 1981.

Occupation (major groups)	Total			Male			Female		
	Non-English Speaking Immigrants	English Speaking Immigrants	Non-Immigrants	Non-English Speaking Immigrants	English Speaking Immigrants	Non-Immigrants	Non-English Speaking Immigrants	English Speaking Immigrants	Non-Immigrants
Managerial, Administrative, Professional, Scientific, Teaching and Related Occupations	1,755	317,410	841,900	875	197,765	466,100	880	119,645	375,795
Clerical and Related Occupations	1,855	228,535	746,905	570	50,725	163,875	1,285	177,805	583,030
Sales	1,475	100,870	342,245	650	53,285	183,480	830	47,585	158,760
Services	14,750	164,890	421,365	5,855	78,045	189,490	8,895	86,845	231,880
Farming, Fishing, Forestry, Mining	2,620	33,160	173,025	1,380	22,835	133,270	1,240	10,325	39,755
Processing, Machining, Product Fabricating, Assembling, Repairing and Related Occupations	22,580	263,015	477,485	9,170	191,985	386,405	13,415	71,035	91,080
Construction	8,220	80,710	176,800	8,100	79,280	172,635	115	1,430	4,165
Transportation	495	26,885	137,805	490	24,900	125,340	10	1,990	12,460
Material Handling	2,900	46,410	130,880	1,065	29,150	100,280	1,850	17,260	30,595
All Other	2,575	20,985	57,135	1,405	15,825	46,010	1,170	5,165	11,125
Total	59,225	1,282,870	3,505,545	29,560	743,795	1,966,885	29,670	539,085	1,538,645

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.

Table A-16

Non-English Speaking Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over with Less than Grade 9 Education by Place of Birth, Ontario, 1981.

	Total	With Less than Grade 9 Education	
		Number	%
China	6,535	4,285	65.6
Greece	6,260	5,305	84.7
Hong Kong	1,010	595	58.9
Hungary	1,470	965	65.6
India	2,785	2,250	80.8
Italy	42,980	38,920	90.6
Poland	3,270	2,345	71.7
Portugal	25,515	22,255	87.2
South America	2,720	1,270	46.7
Taiwan	6,150	3,970	64.6
USSR	3,100	2,195	70.8
Western Asia	2,605	1,890	72.6
Yugoslavia	3,580	2,800	78.2
All other	13,725	7,280	53.0
Total	121,710	96,310	79.1

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.

Table A-17

Labour Force Participation of Non-English Speaking Immigrants 15 Years of Age and Over by Place of Birth, Ontario, 1981.

	Total	In Labour Force						Not in Labour Force	
		Total		Employed		Unemployed			
		Number	%[1]	Number	%[2]	Number	%[2]	Number	%
China	6,535	2,605	39.9	2,470	94.8	130	5.0	3,925	60.1
Greece	6,260	2,540	40.6	2,395	94.3	150	5.9	3,720	59.4
Hong Kong	1,010	410	40.6	375	91.5	35	8.5	600	59.4
Hungary	1,470	285	19.4	260	91.2	30	10.5	1,185	80.6
India	2,785	750	26.9	625	83.3	125	16.7	2,030	72.9
Italy	42,980	18,295	42.6	17,350	94.8	940	5.1	24,690	57.4
Poland	3,270	990	30.3	925	93.4	70	7.1	2,280	69.7
Portugal	25,515	16,630	65.2	15,865	95.4	760	4.6	8,890	34.8
South America	2,720	1,640	60.3	1,565	95.4	80	4.9	1,080	39.7
Taiwan	6,150	2,465	40.0	2,315	93.9	145	5.9	3,685	59.9
USSR	3,100	465	15.0	425	91.4	40	8.6	2,630	85.0
Western Asia	2,605	715	27.4	640	89.5	80	11.2	1,890	72.6
Yugoslavia	3,580	1,235	34.5	1,140	92.3	90	7.3	2,350	65.6
All other	13,725	5,545	40.4	5,035	90.8	515	9.3	8,175	59.6
Total	121,710	54,580	44.8	51,385	94.1	3,190	5.8	67,130	55.2

[1] refers to % of the grand total for given places of births.

[2] refers to % of total in labour force for given places of birth.

Source: 1981 Census of Canada, Unpublished Data.